



Wheels to Wings

In the spring of 1895, Wilbur and Orville Wright moved their printing and bicycle shops under one roof in The Wright Cycle Company building you see in front of you. Here the brothers concentrated on designing and building their own custom make of bicycles. They devised a gas engine to power their tools, mastered welding, built chain drives, brakes, and hubs—all crucial skills used to build the world's first airplanes.

The Wright Cycle Company proved profitable, enabling the brothers, during the quiet winter months, to spend more time doing what they did best—invent. By the time the Wrights moved to a larger shop in 1897, they already had an awakening interest in human flight.



An original Wright St.Clair rigged with a replica testing device. The Wrights used bicycles to experiment with motion, steering, and balance.

Wilbur working the lathe at
The Wright Cycle Company in 1897

